

**CLAIM SET AS AMENDED**

1. (Currently Amended) An air cleaner comprising:

a housing forming an interior area, said housing including a case and a lid, an element holder being mounted on the case and being enclosed by the case and the lid;

an element for partitioning the interior area of said housing into a dirty side and a clean side; and

a gas-passing element retainer provided on a clean side of said element holder for supporting said element said element retainer having the shape of a louver comprising a plurality of opening portions and a plurality of rectifier portions projecting at a slant to an upper side of each of said opening portions.

2. (Original) The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said louver is formed by a plurality of inclined portions that extend from a base portion forming the opening portions in said element retainer for directing air from the gas-passing element retainer.

3. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said rectifier portions are formed by smooth, continuously curved surfaces extending from a base portion of said element retainer.

4. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 2, wherein said opening portions in said element retainer extend in a first direction, and tip end side openings exiting

from said inclined portions extend in a second direction displaced relative to said first direction.

5. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 4, wherein said tip end side opening portions are displaced approximately  $90^0$  relative to the opening portions in said element retainer.

6. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of inclined portions cover said opening portions in said element retainer for reducing the noise from an engine side of said air cleaner.

7. Canceled.

8. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said element holder includes a stay positioned at one end for mounting said element holder relative to said case, the stay being covered by the lid.

9. (Original) The air cleaner according to claim 8, wherein said element holder includes a flange for retaining said element relative to said element holder.

10. (Original) The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein said element is a filter.

11. (Currently Amended) An air cleaner comprising:

a housing forming an interior area, the housing including a case and a lid, an element holder being mounted on the case and being enclosed by the case and the lid;

a retainer for partitioning the interior area of said housing into a dirty side and a clean side; and

a filter mounted relative to said retainer for cleaning air flowing from said dirty side of said retainer to said clean side, said retainer being a louver including a plurality of opening portions and a plurality of rectifier portions projecting at a slant relative to said ~~retainer~~ element holder.

12. (Original) The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said louver is formed by a plurality of inclined portions that extend from a base portion forming the opening portions in said retainer for directing air from the retainer.

13. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said rectifier portions are formed by smooth, continuously curved surfaces extending from a base portion of said retainer.

14. (Original) The air cleaner according to claim 12, wherein said opening portions in said retainer extend in a first direction and tip end side openings exiting from said inclined portions extend in a second direction displaced relative to said first direction.

15. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 14, wherein said tip end side opening portions are displaced approximately  $90^0$  relative to the opening portions in said retainer.

16. (Previously Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of inclined portions cover said opening portions in said retainer for reducing the noise from an engine side of said air cleaner.

17. (Currently Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said louver includes a plurality of substantially hexagonal frame portions that are inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to a base of said ~~retainer~~ element holder.

18. (Currently Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein said ~~retainer~~ element holder includes a stay positioned at one end for mounting said ~~retainer~~ element holder relative to said case, the stay being covered by the lid.

19. (Currently Amended) The air cleaner according to claim 18, wherein said ~~retainer~~ element holder includes a flange for retaining said filter relative to said ~~retainer~~ element holder.

20. (Previously Added) The air cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the lid bulges upwardly from the retainer for enclosing a duct, the duct taking in outside air.

21. (Previously Added) The air cleaner according to claim 11, wherein one side of the lid is disposed above the case, and another side of the lid bulges and extends outwardly from the case to enclose a duct that takes in outside air.

**22.** (Previously Added) The air cleaner according to claim **1**, further comprising a connecting tube extending from the case and connected at its extended end to a carburetor, wherein said louver includes tip end side opening portions directed to the carburetor on an intake downstream side of the connecting tube.